

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the paper indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-26 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. Unrelated to any prior art rejection, Claim 11 has been amended in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicants' claimed invention. At entry of this paper, Claims 1-26 will be pending in the application for further consideration and examination in the application.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

In the "Disposition of Claims" Section of the Office Action Summary, Claims 1-10 and 12-26 were indicated as being allowed. Applicants and the undersigned thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of Claims 1-10 and 12-26.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §§112 - TRAVERSED BY AMENDMENT

Claim 11 has been objected to because of the minor Office Action concern set forth in Item 3 on page 2 of the Detailed Action, *i.e.*, as being an improper single means claim (*i.e.*, to rewrite into a proper multiple means claim). As amendments have been made where appropriate in order to address the Office Action concern listed concern, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objection are respectfully requested.

CLARIFICATION OF DRAWING REQUIREMENTS

Attached to the Office Action mailed 14 September 1999 was Form PTO-948. However, the Form PTO-948 received by Applicants has been examined thoroughly and is completely blank. Also, no information or requirement regarding the drawings is given in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request clarification on what, if any, drawing requirements are outstanding in the present application.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is being filed within the shortened statutory period set by the Office Action, and therefore, no Petition for extension of time or fee are required. To whatever other extent is necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to